GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1475
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
CO ORDINATION FOR CRISIS MANAGEMENT
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to inter-connect all the District Collectors and other District level officers as well as Tehsildars or Taluk officers in the country in a single network to co-ordinate during crisis period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any Disaster Management Committee to tacklethe serious problems arising out of sudden natural calamities like cyclone or earthquake or big accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government have any such plans in the coming years;

(e) the details of the damages occurred in terms of money due to various natural calamities and catastrophies in the country during the last two decades and the relief measures in terms of money during the same period; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to have inter-connected and rapid force co-ordination for the crisis management during the natural disaster?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a)&(b): Institutional arrangements exist at the National, State and District levelsfor management of natural disasters. The primary responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures as well as disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes, in the event of natural disasters is that of the State Government concerned. Relief efforts are coordinated within Districts and States, Government of India supplements them, as the need be.

(c)&(d): National Crisis Management Committee under Cabinet Secretary and Crisis Management Group under Central Relief Commissioner exist at the Central level. Similarly, a Committee exists under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary at the Statelevel assisted by the Relief Commissioner and under District Magistrate at the Districtlevel. In the wake of the earthquake in Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister having representation of the Presidents of the National and State Level political parties to inter- alia suggest institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future.

(e): Due to geographical features, the Country is prone to various natural disasters. Almost every year one part or other of the Country experience one or more natural disasters with varying magnitude, causing damage to infrastructure and private properties besides loss of human lives. Damage in terms of money due to various natural calamities and catastrophes in the country for the last two decades are not available.

(f): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is the nodal Department forcoordinating central efforts in close association with the concerned Department/Agencies and the affected State for calamities of severe nature and the Control Room for the purpose functions round the clock.